

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:WLSWING:WLS

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EUR/CE - MR. BECKER (PHONE)

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Z O 030310Z MAR 74 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 042370

EXDIS TOSEC-325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN: BUNDESTAG
PRESIDIUM MEETING

REFERENCE: (A) PENDLETON/S/S TELECON, MARCH 2; (B) BONN
3252; (C) TEL AVIV 1172; (C) STATE 041258

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND TALKING POINTS ON
THE QUESTION OF B'NDESTAG PRESIDIUM MEETING IN WEST BERLIN
ARE PROVIDED, AS REQUESTED, ON CONTINGENCY BASIS SHOULD
THE CHANCELLOR OR THE FOREIGN MINISTER RAISE IT IN THEIR
CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE
SECRETARY DISCUSSED PRESIDIUM MEETING QU STION

WITH SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME THIS WEEK (REFTELS),
AND THE TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR TO THE
BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF THE PRO-
POSED PRESIDIUM MEETING, CONTAINED IN STATE 40974 TOSEC218,
OUTLINES THE US/ALLIED POSITION. EMBASSY BONN WILL
BE IN BEST POSITION TO BRIEF SECRETARY ON LATEST DEVELOP-
MENTS IN THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY

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ISSUE: PROPOSED BUNDESTAG PRESIDIUM MEETING

BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT ANNEMARIE RENGGER INFORMED THE THREE ALLIES IN THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY OF THE INTENTION TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS IN BERLIN. LEARNING OF THESE PLANS, THE SOVIETS PROTESTED THE PROPOSED MEETING.

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THE ALLIES REQUESTED PRESIDENT RENGGER TO POSTPONE THE MEETING UNTIL THEY HAD REPLIED TO THE SOVIETS PROTESTS. UNABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING AND THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PRESIDUM, THE THREE ALLIES REQUESTED IN EARLY FEBRUARY THAT RENGGER PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO ASSIST THEM IN DETERMINING CONFORMITY OF PRESIDUM MEETING WITH PROVISIONS OF THE BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT (QA). THE REQUIRED INFORMATION HAS NOT YET BEEN FURNISHED THE THREE ALLIES. FRG POSITION: THE CHANCELLOR'S LETTER TO THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT, REQUESTING A POSTPONEMENT OF PLANS FOR A PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN, PRESENTED THE ALLIED VIEW AS THE FRG'S OWN VIEW. THE FRG IS NOW AWAITING AN ALLIED DECISION ON THE CONFORMITY OF A PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN WITH THE QA, BUT HAD NOT SUPPLIED THE INFORMATION NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH ARRIVING AT SUCH A DETERMINATION.

US POSITION: WE CONSIDER THAT THE QA DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY PRECLUDE CERTAIN BUNDESTAG ORGANS MEETING IN BERLIN. THIS PRESUMABLY INCLUDES THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE FRG CONSIDERS THE NATURE OF THE PRESIDUM TO BE -- WHETHER IT IS SIMILAR TO A BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE, OR IS A PLENARY ORGAN, FOR EXAMPLE. IN ANY CASE, WE CONSIDER THAT PRESSURE FOR A PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE POLITICALLY UNWISE, IS PARTICULAR GIVEN ITS SOMEWHAT MARGINAL IMPORTANCE IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL CONTEXT.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY:

-- AS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL AGENCIES IN WEST BERLIN SUCH AS THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY,
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CONVENING THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM IN BERLIN REQUIRE CLOSE, FULL AND TIMELY CONSULTATIONS AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE THREE ALLIES.

-- WE DESIRE NO PUBLICITY OF ANY NEW PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN.

-- WE CONTINUE TO AWAIT MORE INFORMATION FROM THE

BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT ON THE AIM AND AGENDA OF A FUTURE
PRESIDIUM MEETING IN BERLIN, AND OF THE PRESIDIUM'S PRE-
CISE NATURE TO ASSIST US IN DETERMINING WHETHER A MEETING
WOULD BE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE QA.

-- WE HOPE THE FRG WILL JOIN WITH THE THREE ALLIES IN
WORKING OUT AN AGREED PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ALL

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PROPOSED FUTURE FRG ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN. DONALDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS, TOSEC 325
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE042370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLSWING:WLS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P740145-0144
From: EUR SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740372/aaaacopk.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 BONN 3252, 74 TEL AVIV 1172, 74 STATE 41258
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN: BUNDESTAG PRESIDIUUM MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, US, UK, FR, UR
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005